

Sawmills, like topsy, grew quickly in the early days of Midway. The need for lumber was urgent and the settlers were grateful for any amount that could be produced.

Because of the urgency for lumber, and the rapidity with which mills were built, it is difficult to know which was the "first" sawmill in Midway. For this reason, this account lists no one owner as "first."

An early operator was Father Mills of Provo. Sidney Epperson wrote in his journal about Father Mills as follows: "Mr. Huber states that Father Mills wheeled tools in a wheel barrow from Provo and located a sawmill here in the upper settlement on Snake Creek. At night he locked himself in a box as protection from bears and snakes."

Peter Shirts (Shurtz) had a mill on Snake Creek which contained an old style "up and down saw." He operated the mill only a few years and then sold it in 1864 to Henry Coleman Sr., who ran the mill for some time. Mr. Coleman employed John H. Van Wagoner as an assistant.

John Watkins also operated a sawmill, but located it on Deer Creek. Most of these mills were water-powered, though some utilized steam power in later years.

Most of the logs for the sawmills were hauled by horses or ox teams. Most loggers preferred oxen since they were slow, steady and not easily excited.

Moroni Blood was another sawmill operator. He was able to produce smooth lumber with a planer that he made himself. Other owners and operators included Ephraim Hanks, David Van Wagoner, William Howard, Henry Alexander, John Huber and Jacob Buehler.



The Charleston Co-Operative Creamery begun in 1894 by George Daybell and later expanded to this building by Mr. Daybell and Joseph R. Murdock.

they had seven milk wagons bringing in milk from local farms. They processed about 21,000 gallons of milk a day, and sold their butter, cheese and other milk products as far west as California and into the eastern markets.

Nymphas C. Murdock's son, Joseph, built a saw mill on the Provo River just north of Charleston, east of the Provo River bridge and west of the George Edwards home. A pond was also built in which water was stored over-night to provide a sufficient supply for the following day's operation. Logs were hauled from all parts of the valley to the saw mill which operated successfully for many years.

Through the years there have been many other businesses in Charleston. Emil Kohler ran a meat market, while Phoebe North Daybell had a millinery shop. Sarah Ritchie Wright had a fine dressmaking parlor, while Ernest Bates was proprietor of a popular ice cream and confectionary parlor. One of the state's leading mid-wives, Mrs. Etta Wagstaff, also practiced in Charleston.

Charleston's main industrial efforts, however, have centered around agriculture. Thousands of acres of meadow lands have supported large herds of dairy cattle, flocks of blooded sheep and hundreds of head of fine beef cattle.

From the farms near Charleston have annually come some 40,000 bushels of grain and hundreds of tons of hay. Bishop John M. Ritchie and some associates purchased and imported a herd of some 300 head of pure-bred Hereford cattle, and later Hyrum, Moroni and Fred Winter-ton and John C. Whiting imported fine breeding stock to make Charles-

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When events occur for the first time or when people achieve new things there is usually popular acclaim to remember the events or the people. There are many memorable "firsts" in Wallsburg, including the following:

The first school house and church building was constructed inside the fort area and Mrs. Lucina M. Boren was the first school teacher. The first school house outside the fort was the home of Martin Ford, and the first regular school building was on the property of George L. Batty. Miss Josephine Wall was teacher in 1859. Teachers who came to these first schools lived in the homes of Jennie Allred, Susan Davis, Amber Ford and Mrs. John Graham.

Some of the first musicians that played for dances were William Bancroft, dulcimer; George Allred, Amber, Martin and Alfred Ford, James Wheeler and William Davis who played the violin, organ and guitar.

Mrs. Polly Mecham was the first doctor in Wallsburg and used herbs as well as faith and prayer in caring for the sick. Mrs. Annie Mecham, wife of John L. Mecham, also was an early doctor in the area.

The first irrigation ditches were made by W. J. Boren and William Haws.

The first post office was directed by William E. Nuttall and the mail was carried on horseback and carriage by Dixon Greer. The mail route from Wallsburg was to "String Town" or what was later Harry Watson's farm near Charleston. Other postmasters included S. D. Greer, George Dabbling, George P. Garff, Della Mecham, Orpha Wall and Alice C. Graham. Mail carriers included Abram Penrod, Elijah Davis, Ray Boren, Ellis Boren, Willard Davis, John Wall and Roy V. Loertscher.

The first manufacturing was the production of shingles. Owner of the first shingle mill was William Nuttall. John Parcell, Enoch Richens and Elijah Davis also owned an early mill. There were many good lumber mills and carpenters, including William Ford and Martin Ford Jr., who were especially skilled at manufacturing caskets.

The first piece of machinery brought to Round Valley was a mower and reaper owned by Martin Ford, Sr.

The first shoemakers were W. J. Boren, William Haws and Luke Burdick. Mr. Boren was also a skilled cabinetmaker. Early stores were owned by Dick Camp, James Allred, Jacob Harris and Dixon Greer.

The first saw mill was owned by William Penrod, W. J. Boren and James Wheeler, William G. Nuttall and Daniel Bigelow also owned mills.